



MINUTES

March 22, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Batton, Co-Chair, called the meeting of the Commission on Youth and Children to order at 5:10 pm, in the large conference room at the Parks, Recreation and Marine Administration Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, roll call was taken and a quorum was not confirmed until 5: 34 pm.

Present:

Pierre Batton, 1st District Representative, Co-Chair

Rebecca Turrentine, Education, Co-Chair

Amber Hines, 9th District Youth

Helen Ingram, Education

Marty Isozaki, Job Training

Harry Koulos, 3rd District Youth

Mackenzie Martin, 5th District Youth

Jon Meyer, LBUSD Board Member

Marc Rothenberg, Juvenile Justice

Kevin Scott, Youth Enrichment

Mary Soth, Early Childhood Development

Absent:

Sotheara Chhay, 6th District Youth

Jeanetta McAlpin, Social Services

Crystal Palatto, 7th District Youth

Phillip Penn, 8th District Youth

Victor Perez, Health

Lauren Perry, 2nd District Youth

Jessica Quintana, Parent

Chelsii Summerville, 4th District Youth

Staff:

Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Cynthia Fogg, Superintendent, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Andrew Romero, Youth Development Specialist, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Christina Santos, Research and Data Specialist, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Guests:

Chris Donelon, Long Beach Resident

Mike Donelon, Former City Council Member and Long Beach Resident

Ray Sharp, Broadcasting Teacher, Long Beach Unified School District

Mony Sing, Representative of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald's Office

Ben Torksorf, 5th District Level Youth Advisory Committee member

Randi Torksorf, Parent

Cecile Walters, City of Long Beach, Workforce Development Bureau

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Rothenberg and seconded by Commissioner Hines to approve the February 22, 2006 Commission on Youth and Children minutes with editorial changes noted by Commissioner Isozaki. The motion carried unanimously when a quorum was confirmed.

III. COMMENTS

Mony Sing, a representative from Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald's Office, delivered and distributed Certificates of Appreciation to the Youth Commissioners from Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald.

At this time, Co-Chair Batton moved to reorder the agenda to move Items VIII B and IX A up to this time to accommodate the guest speakers.

Item VIII B: Sports Park Project – Ms. Fogg reminded the Commissioners about the Sports Park Project presentation given by Dennis Eschen, Parks, Recreation and Marine Manager of Planning and Development at the February 22nd meeting. Former City Council Member Mike Donelon addressed the commission to encourage them to support the Sports Park Project. Mr. Donelon briefly explained the history of the Sports Park Project. He also expressed his feelings about the Sports Park Project and how he feels it will free up park space from adult sports and have more available space for the city's youth.

During discussion Commissioner Soth asked Mr. Donelon to explain the amount of open park space within the Central, North and West areas of Long Beach in comparison to East areas of Long Beach. Mr. Donelon explained that there is very limited space in West Long Beach. He expressed his feelings about East Long Beach being very fortunate for their wonderful park space, whereas park space is very limited in other areas.

Commissioner Soth continued to request more information about the "Pay for Play" Sports Park Project. She asked Mr. Donelon if the Sports Park would be primarily intended to serve adults of the community. Mr. Donelon explained that the purpose of the Sports Park Project is to serve everyone in the community. Mr. Donelon continued to clarify that the adult sports league would be encouraged to use this Sports Park to free up park space to the youth in the communities.

Phil Hester also addressed the topic by explaining that this Sports Park Project will help open up space and keep the Long Beach youth sports leagues local. Currently, the City does not have any open park space for youth sports leagues, forcing these leagues to compete outside of the City. However, the Sports Park Project would help in relocating the adult leagues to the Sports Park, opening up space for youth and youth sports leagues.

Ms. Fogg recommended the motion to send a letter of support to the Mayor and City Council attesting to the potential benefit of developing a pay for play Sports Park in

order to increase the ability of the City's youth to utilize free public park and school space for sports.

Commissioner Rothenberg continued the discussion by addressing the environmental concerns about the open space and cost of the project. He mentioned his concerns about the vacant land and expressed his experience driving by the vacant area. He continued to ask about the preservation of the land. Commissioner Rothenberg continued to inquire about the cost and procedures needed to clean up the old gas stations and oil.

Mr. Donelon explained that during his term on City Council, the estimated cost of clean up was approximately \$12,000; however he understands that estimated cost is a lot higher than what was previously quoted. He also agreed with Commissioner Rothenberg by stating that the site is dirty and miserable, yet he explained that there are ways to clean up the site to make it suitable for the Sports Park Project. He recognizes that this is a costly project, but knows that there are grants and funds that can make this project possible. Mr. Donelon encourages the Commission to show their support of the Sports Park Project and bring it to City Council's attention.

Mr. Hester noted that all questions, issues, concerns, and planning process would be addressed after City Council approves the Sports Park Project. He further explained that City Council has already been approached with the planning and developing ideas for the Sports Park. He also explained that the Commission's endorsement and/or support of the Sports Park Project would help influence City Council on their decision to approve the project.

Commissioner Meyer questioned the intent of the letter of support, asking if it would support the concept of the Sports Park's purpose to move adults off local play fields and thus create more space for youth. He thought the Commission should support the concept of the Sports Park's purpose.

Ms. Fogg requested that the motion be changed to send a letter of support to the Mayor and City Council attesting to the potential benefit of developing a Pay for Play Sports Park in order to increase the ability of the City's youth to utilize free public and school space for sports.

Commissioner Rothenberg continued to inquire about approving the concept, suggesting that the Commission clearly state that they are supporting the Sports Park Project in concept.

Co-Chair Turrentine suggested that a letter in support of the Sports Park Project should also include that the Commission supports the project, provided that the environmental and fiscal issues can be addressed in an appropriate way.

Commissioner Meyer said that he agreed with Commissioner Rothenberg in stating that he would feel comfortable supporting the Sports Park Project, given that the City has enough money to build the Sports Park and accommodate environmental concerns. He also explained that the main purpose behind supporting this project is to open space for the City's youth.

It was moved by Commissioner Soth and seconded by Commissioner Meyer to authorize staff to send a letter of support to the Mayor and City Council attesting to the potential benefit of developing a Pay for Play Sports Park in order to increase the ability of the City's youth to utilize free public park and school space for sports. The motion carried unanimously.

Item IX A: Regional Forum for America's Promise – Ms. Fogg suggested the conversion of the existing Special Implementation Committee to a tentative America's Promise Pacific Regional Forum Planning Committee. She reminded the Commission to save the dates June 8th and 9th, for the America's Promise Pacific Regional Forum. Ms. Fogg explained that the America's Promise Pacific Regional Forum Planning Committee would like to have several Commissioners represented on the Planning Committee that America's Promise asked to form. She continued to explain that Co-Chair Batton and Commissioner Scott would be asked to represent the Commission on the Planning Committee, converting the Special Implementation Committee rather than creating a new committee. Ms. Fogg also invited Co-Chair Turrentine to be a part of the Planning Committee.

It was moved by Commissioner Meyer and seconded by Commissioner Ingram to convert the Special Implementation Committee members to the America's Promise Pacific Regional Forum Planning Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

Ms. Fogg asked Commissioner Isozaki to give the final report on the Mayoral Candidates Forum at this time. Commissioner Isozaki asked Commissioner Koulos to give his final report on the Mayoral Candidates Forum. Commissioner Koulos explained that he thought the event was a major success. He also said that he had a lot of fun and the event was a great experience. Commissioner Isozaki commented on his final thoughts of the event. He was proud of the outcome. He also stated that there were approximately 275 people that attended, in which case 65 percent were youth, which is more youth in attendance than any other Mayoral Candidates Forum. He also noted that it was a wonderful experience working with Operation Jump Start, and he looks forward to working with them again in the future. Commissioner Isozaki also shared some of the comments he received about the success of the event. He also brought in copies of the Press Telegram, which includes a picture of the Mayoral Candidates Forum. Commissioner Isozaki also discussed other press coverage of the event.

Commissioner Isozaki also explained that the committee prepared 80 questions, but 55 were asked at the forum. He noted that different agencies have requested copies of the questions to use in future events such as the California State Long Beach Community Issues Forum. He explained that the requesting agencies would use questions that relate to their programs. He also informed the Commission that the questions were distributed out to the Youth Services NETWORK.

Ms. Fogg suggested that the Commission and the new Mayor meet to revisit some of the issues that were posed as questions. She continued to explain that in some cases

these types of questions are often ignored and the posers of the questions feel that their issues were not dealt with.

Commissioner Ingram inquired about the origins of the questions. She felt as though most of the questions came from Long Beach Polytechnic High School (Poly). Commissioner Meyer also noted that he felt a lot of the questions originated from Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo Savannah Academy (Cabrillo). Commissioner Isozaki explained that questions originated from many Community Based Agencies as well as the Long Beach Unified School District. He also explained that the questions received from Cabrillo were received at a later time, and most of them reflected the same questions asked by Poly. Commissioner Ingram and Commissioner Meyer both explained how they encouraged the school district's participation in this event.

Co-Chair Turrentine commented on the outstanding efforts the Mayoral Candidates Forum Committee put into the event. She also noted that she received positive feedback from the various people in the community about the event. Co-Chair Turrentine also thanked Andrew Romero for his efforts working with the committee. She also thanked Cynthia Fogg for the manner in which she handled the issue of homeless youth. She felt that the outburst could have left a bad feeling about the event, but the way Ms. Fogg addressed the homeless youth issue helped pull the event back together. She explained that it was a very serious and heart-filled issue and it was important for the audience to see the issue would be addressed. She further commented on the tremendous efforts Ms. Fogg has made to work with the young man and the people who were with him, to get them to come and speak to the Commission.

Ms. Fogg informed the Commission that she has made efforts to get in touch with Susan Price, the City's Youth Homelessness Coordinator. She explained that she asked Ms. Price to address the Commission this meeting; unfortunately Ms. Price said that she would be busy until the end of May. Ms. Fogg explained that Ms. Price stated that she would love to address the Commission but at a more convenient time. Ms. Fogg informed the Commission that she would stay in contact with Ms. Price, so that the issue of youth homelessness gets addressed.

Commissioner Meyer also commented on the issue of homeless youth. He informed the Commission about a school for homeless youth. He also offered to bring some information and present a brief report about this outreach program.

Commissioner Isozaki passed out gifts to the Mayoral Candidates Forum Committee members. He further thanked the committee members for their wonderful efforts of working together and focusing on the common mission.

Andrew Romero also passed out gifts to the Co-Chairs of the Mayoral Candidates Forum Committee.

Commissioner Meyer introduced Ray Sharp, Broadcasting Teacher for the Long Beach Unified School District. Mr. Meyer explained Mr. Sharp's involvement with the Mayoral Candidates Forum. Mr. Sharp brought three students to film the event. At this time Mr. Sharp presented video clips of the event.

As usual, the Superintendent's monthly report was included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Fogg discussed the Youth Services NETWORK meeting that took place on March 21st. She recapped the updates on the City's Youth Initiative Programs, Commission on Youth and Children current involvements, the Data Partnership for the Profile on Youth and Children, the Long Beach Youth Fund reconvening in April, the Youth Program Quality Assessment, the After School Advocacy Partnership, the Third Annual Community Issues Forum, and the 80 questions submitted for the Mayoral Candidates Forum.

Ms. Fogg asked Mr. Hester to address the Commission about the Youth Study/Master Plan. Mr. Hester explained that the optimized study would show how the City's Youth Services could be made more efficient. He continued to explain how the City Manager originally asked another department to produce the optimized study, but the department was unfortunately unable to bring forth the study. As a result of this, the study was transferred to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine but would still continue to be a citywide study. Mr. Hester explained that he agreed to take over the responsibility only if they would allow him to have Cynthia Fogg take the lead on the study. He elaborated on Ms. Fogg's new assignment and explained the importance of the study. He also said Ms. Fogg would continue to oversee the Commission because the Commission would have an important role in the study.

Co-Chair Turrentine felt this was a tremendous vote of confidence in Ms. Fogg and her knowledge of youth. She continued to explain that she feels that a huge part of success of the Commission is due to the guidance that Ms. Fogg has provided.

Ms. Fogg informed the Commission about the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA), which is an instrument that measures the quality of youth programs. Ms. Fogg discussed the YPQA training on May 15th and 16th, and asked the Commissioners to save the date on their calendars. Ms. Fogg continued to explain the importance of measuring the quality of youth programs in comparison to the funding of the programs.

Ms. Fogg told the Commission about the new memo on Legal Restrictions on Campaign Activities and the Handbook for City Officials. Ms. Fogg corrected her initial statement in July of 2005, which said that Commissioners were not allowed to use their titles to endorse candidates. Ms. Fogg explained that she spoke to the City Attorney's office and was told that it was fine for Commissioners to use their titles to endorse a candidate as long as it does not illustrate that the City endorses the candidate. Ms. Fogg clearly elaborated on the issue that as City Officials, the Commissioners are not allowed to use City resources to campaign.

Ms. Fogg discussed the memo from Michael Killebrew, Director of Financial Management, on the layout of the budget for fiscal year 2006. She commented on the dates of the upcoming Budget Oversight Committee meeting, May 16th. Ms. Fogg suggested that the CYC Executive Committee discuss this at length during their meeting to strategize when would be the best time to invite the Budget Office to do a presentation to the Commission.

V. CO-CHAIRS REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

Co-Chair Batton discussed his thoughts on the Mayoral Candidates Forum.

Co-Chair Batton reported on his experience and participation in the California After School Summit in Sacramento on March 15th.

Co-Chair Batton announced that his birthday was on March 16th. He explained that he is very excited to be nineteen years old. He also elaborated on the “colorful” events that he participated in to celebrate his birthday and Saint Patrick’s Day.

Co-Chair Batton also reported on his responsibilities of having three jobs and being a full time student.

Co-Chair Batton announced that the Press Telegram reported on Stanford University eradicating their tuition.

Co-Chair Turrentine briefly touched on Co-Chair Batton’s report on the California After School Summit. She explained that History was made at the summit by having both the Governor and the State Superintendent of Instruction advocating on the same side of the issue. She also expressed the importance of the issue of Proposition 49.

Co-Chair Turrentine shared her experience meeting with the deputy to the Los Angeles County Supervisor, who serves our area of Los Angeles County. She briefly explained the discussion that took place about possibly having the deputy meet with the CYC, in hopes of influencing the County’s decision to add youth to their Commission.

At this time, Co-Chair Turrentine moved to reorder the agenda to move Item IX B up to this time to ensure a quorum for the vote of the action following the item.

Item IX B: California After School Summit March 15, 2006 – Ms. Fogg explained that the After School Advocacy Partnership (ASAP) has a Proposition 49 Implementation Committee, which is a subcommittee under ASAP. The committee would like to include Commissioners on board to represent the Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Batton and seconded by Commissioner Isozaki to receive and file the report and approve the participation of Co-Chair Turrentine and Commissioner Meyer on the Proposition 49 Implementation Committee.

VI. REPORTS

a. Committees

1. Executive Committee Co-Chairs Batton and Turrentine, Commissioner Meyer, and Commissioner Perry

Co-Chair Turrentine explained that the committee recapped the Mayoral Candidates Forum and discussed the homeless issue. She also explained that the committee worked on the month’s agenda.

2. Profile Project Committee Commissioners Hines, Martin, Penn, Perez, Scott, and Soth

Ms. Fogg discussed the scheduling of the first meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, April 26th at 3:45 pm. She also checked to see if all committee members would be able to meet at the date and time stated.

3. Public Relations Committee Co-Chairs Chhay and McAlpin

Neither Co-Chair was present to give a report.

4. Long Beach Youth Fund Committee

Reconvening in April.

5. Special Implementation Committee Co-Chairs Batton and Scott

Co-Chair Turrentine said that the committee would be converted into the America's Promise Pacific Regional Forum Planning Committee, as previously discussed.

6. Special Mayoral Candidates Forum Committee Co-Chairs Isozaki and Koulos

Co-Chair Turrentine explained that the final report from Commissioners Isozaki and Koulos was given during the Superintendent's Report.

b. Standing Items

1. Education and Youth Strategic Plan

Co-Chair Turrentine and Ms. Fogg explained that the title would be converted to the Youth Study/Master Plan.

2. District Level Youth Advisory Councils

Report on DLYAC meetings

The various youth Commissioners present reported on the following schedules for the District Level Youth Advisory Councils. The schedule of the April 2006 DLYAC meetings was distributed as an attachment to the agenda package. Andrew Romero elaborated on each district meeting.

District 1 Mayoral Candidates Forum

District 2 Dormant.

District 3 Mayoral Candidates Forum

District 4 Mayoral Candidates Forum

District 5 Mayoral Candidates Forum

District 6 Mayoral Candidates Forum

District 7 Mayoral Candidates Forum

District 8 Mayoral Candidates Forum

District 9 Mayoral Candidates Forum

3. Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force

Commissioner Rothenberg discussed the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force Field Trip and the meeting that took place on March 13th at the Long Beach Police Department's Emergency Communication and Operation Center (ECOC). He also explained his experience at the ECOC and explained that all the 911 emergency calls are taken at the location. He reported that the Mayoral Candidates Forum questions were distributed and discussed throughout the meeting. He noted that the Task Force is still looking for volunteers for the Enough is Enough Program. He noted that during the meeting, Ms. Fogg gave a report on Proposition 49. He explained that the Workforce Development Bureau gave a presentation about youth employment.

Ms. Fogg explained that she invited Cecile Walters, from the Workforce Development Bureau, to give a brief presentation at the next CYC meeting.

Commissioner Rothenberg explained that the Task Force reviewed crime statistics. He reported that the crime statistics show that crime has decreased five percent in the City of Long Beach.

Commissioner Rothenberg noted that the next Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 10th.

c. Non-Committee Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Ingram commented about stun guns and how they can be used as weapons that can cause serious damage.

Commissioner Rothenberg shared that he has had a couple of cases where youth have made their own stun guns and stunned fellow classmates at school.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Co-Chair Turrentine discussed the outgoing correspondence to Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, thanking her for attending the CYC meeting in January.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Annual Report – Ms. Fogg reported that the Council letter to be transmitted with the Annual Reports has been drafted. She also noted that Phil Hester requested that the Annual Report be printed in color, so all the pictures have to be reformatted. She

also explained that after the changes are completed, the Annual Reports will be sent to Reprographics at City Hall to be printed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Regional Forum for America's Promise – This item was moved to item III on the agenda.

B. California After School Summit March 15, 2006 – This item was moved to item V on the agenda.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 26 at 5:00 p.m.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Co-Chair Turrentine adjourned at 7:05 pm to the next regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 26 at 5 pm.

**This information is available in an alternative format by request
to Jane Grobaty at (562) 570-3232.**

**The City of Long Beach intends to provide reasonable accommodations in
accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If a special
accommodation is desired, please call Christina Santos
48 hours prior to the meeting, at (562) 570-3538.**

